



Senior Master Sgt. Robert Daniels, Holloman Honor Guard Cadre member, pumps gas for a customer at the shopette April 16. The Honor Guard offered full-service at the gas station to raise money for their recognition banquet. The banquet is May 1 at the Oasis Enlisted Club.

Photos by Laura Pellegrino

To honor with dignity

by Ms. Laura Pellegrino
Sunburst staff writer

Dedication. Sacrifice. Integrity. Pride. These words describe the members of the Holloman Honor Guard. Their responsibility is to support parades, retreats, changes of command and other ceremonies. However, the foremost mission of the Honor Guard is to render military honors to any honorably discharged American military member who's passed away, said Tech. Sergeant Marty Haynes, Honor Guard NCOIC

"We bear the Colors for ceremonies, large and small, as a reminder that we serve our country as its protectors," he said. "We also represent the Air Force and Holloman in our local communities whenever we bear the Colors for civilian events, such as the opening of a sporting event, banquets or for organizations that have large meeting events."

For Senior Airman Heather Sutton, Honor Guard Cadre member, her first assignment – a funeral – is her most memorable.

"I had never experienced military honors at a funeral before, so it was something brand new to me," said Senior Airman Heather Sutton. "I was so nervous that I was going to mess something up. When the funeral director motioned us to start is when it hit me: this was real and not practice."

Thanks to her training, Airman Sutton didn't make any errors. When the service was over, the priest and a few family members thanked the Honor Guard for doing a good job.

"Hearing a family member say those things means a lot," Airman Sutton said. "You have a great sense of pride every time you hear things like that."

According to Sergeant Haynes, the Honor Guard is a service program, not a self program. Airmen must be dedicated and willing to serve the community, he said.

"The Holloman Honor Guard is the epitome of our core values," Sergeant Haynes said. "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."

The Holloman Honor Guard's 32 members must surpass standards of uniform wear, conduct and professionalism, Sergeant Haynes said.

The team's 32 members train every Friday. They practice posting and retiring the Colors for indoor events, outdoor parade Colors, flag folding, firing for the 21 gun salute and pall bearing.

All of the honor guard's hard work will be recognized with an Honor Guard Recognition Banquet at 6 p.m., May 1 at the Oasis Enlisted Club.

"This banquet will recognize our Honor Guard Cadre members for their dedication and sacrifice in representing Holloman and the U.S. Air Force," Sergeant Haynes said. "Members spend long periods traveling within a large area of southern New Mexico and parts of Texas. They have also given huge amounts of personal time, both after duty hours and during weekends, to do these things."

According to Master Sgt. Ray Greebon, the banquet will feature the Honor Guard Ceremonial Drill team as the special entertainment.

The Honor Guard chose among its own members those who would be recognized at the banquet for honors such as leadership, Esprit de Corps and member of the year, he said.

Anyone may attend the banquet and first sergeants have the pro-rata sheets. The menu is prime rib for \$18 for non-members and \$16 for members and vegetable lasagna for \$11.94 for non-members and \$9.94 for members. Dress for Honor Guard members is Ceremonials and semi-formal or mess dress for all others.

For more information on the Honor Guard, call 572-2077.



Senior Airman Hugo De La Sancha, Honor Guard Cadre member, cleans a shopette customer's window during their fundraiser April 16.



Above: Staff Sgt. Muhammed Karimi Saleh and Airman 1st Class Daniel Young, Honor Guard Cadre members, hold signs letting shopette customers know they're offering full-service at the gas station for donations. The fundraiser was to raise money for the Honor Guard Recognition Banquet, 6 p.m., May 1 at the Oasis Enlisted Club.